



Spotlight on CTE

**Highlighting Student Leadership Activities and
Achievements in Career and Technical Education**

September 2005

Welcome Back!

With many “Nationals” over and a new year beginning, what an exciting time this is! Hopefully your summer was restful and full of fun, because all signs are this is going to be a busier year than ever. This issue is just overflowing with news about our **award-winning students**. You all have much to be proud of, because it’s clear this is all about team effort. Success is not an accident. We have many talented students and dedicated teachers and directors out there. If you have any doubt, just keep reading – and enjoy!

As we go to press, our joy has been tempered with the tragedy of **Hurricane Katrina**. This issue is full of stories of how our CTE students have risen to the challenge, demonstrating the leadership and community service for which they are so famous, with newfound compassion.

Thank you to those proud state CTSO directors who have shared news for this issue. Directors, let us know about upcoming events and **scholarship opportunities** for students, and we will get the word out in our December issue. The New Year will be here before you know it!

See page 3 for our quarterly publishing schedule. Please contact editor Donna Beltz at beltzd@michigan.gov or (517) 373-8204 with any newsletter submissions, suggestions or questions. Thank you.

Inside This Issue . . .

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

FCCLA raises nearly \$2,000 in 45 minutes for Hurricane Relief!

Wow, get out of the way for those Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America students! Members of the Mason High School FCCLA went classroom to classroom during 6th hour last week and raised \$1,801, with \$200 more expected.

According to an article in *The Lansing State Journal*, faculty adviser Deb Armock said “Our students were in school when the hurricane hit, and many wanted to help out. We did the same thing when the tsunami hit, and raised \$700.”

Club members organized the fundraiser, counted the money, and will deliver proceeds to the local American Red Cross.

SkillsUSA Relief Response

In a letter to SkillsUSA Members and Supporters, Executive Director Tim Lawrence writes of an idea **all** CTSOs could consider doing. His letter follows:

“Relief agencies are calling for fast action to aid and rescue the citizens of the Gulf Coast and Florida following Hurricane Katrina. The quickest way to support that action is through cash contributions. The American Red Cross is on site and SkillsUSA wants to support their life saving efforts.



(continued on page 2)

As the first phase of our response, we encourage our members to click on the link below to make a contribution to the **American Red Cross**. This can be done by individuals or by SkillsUSA chapters.

As the needs of those affected by the hurricane become clearer, SkillsUSA will enter a second phase of response. In cooperation with our state associations and industry sponsors, we will offer our chapters nationwide specific actions they may take to assist the victims of Katrina.

Thank you for your concern and caring. Times such as these highlight the importance of the technical skills taught through career and technical education and the teamwork skills of SkillsUSA.”

HOSA Responds to Hurricane Katrina

Sarah Sarkees, Director of Special Projects with Texas HOSA, sent this special message to encourage all HOSA members to become involved in the efforts to help those impacted by this tragedy.

“In light of the recent tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, HOSA chapters across the nation have been very eager to get involved in and help with relief efforts. On HOSA’s home page, www.hosa.org, information has been added for those members and chapters seeking a way to help those in need. HOSA’s website suggests that chapters who wish to take an active role in responding to the needs of the victims of Hurricane Katrina contact their local chapter of the Red Cross. Local Red Cross representatives are able to work quickly to determine what help and supplies are needed.

Michigan Students Successful at SkillsUSA Competition

WOW, Team SkillsUSA Michigan was on fire in June! During June 17 through 25, 245 registered SkillsUSA Michigan members lit up Kansas City, Missouri. One hundred-thirty six attendees competed in all major events at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference and SkillsUSA Championships on Friday June 24.

During the Awards Ceremony, SkillsUSA Michigan learned that they were the 5th out of 60 states and territories to receive the highest medals. SkillsUSA Michigan received a total of 36 medals; placing in 22 out of the 70 competitions held.

In all, Michigan gained **15 Gold, 14 Silver, and 7 Bronze medals with 35 top ten finalists. This is the highest medal count in history for SkillsUSA Michigan!**

While there is not room for pictures of all the SkillsUSA student winners, those pictured below are from the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center Cosmetology Program, which won back-to-back gold medals in Cosmetology and in Nail Care at the National Skills USA competition.



Pictured are Helena Stieg and Mallory Arnston, (Nail Care), and Jennifer Mason (Cosmetology). Their instructor, Linda Ward, is to be congratulated, as well.

In addition to the above winners, Michigan’s SkillsUSA **gold** medal winners are:

- Architectural Drafting - Brian Spendak**
Macomb Community College, Warren
- Community Service - Team Z (Jason Pockrandt, Virginia Donelly, Melanie Christoforo)**
Bay Arenac Career Center, Bay City
- Customer Service - Kayla Harriman**
Oakland Tech Center-Northeast, Pontiac
- Industrial Motor Control - Nathan Piggott**
Lansing Community College, Lansing
- Job Interview - Elizabeth Cappella**
Branch Area Careers Center, Coldwater
- Job Skill Demonstration B - Libby Tuckey**
Branch Area Careers Center, Coldwater
- Precision Machining Technology - Ryan Levy**
Jackson Area Career Center, Jackson
- Robotics and Automation Technology - Team J (Andrew Renton, Craig Weiland) – see related story in this issue**
Pinckney High School, Pinckney
- Welding - Ted Luszczyński,**
Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor

The list of silver and bronze winners is even longer, and only space limitations keeps us from listing them all. We are very proud of all these students who represented the state of Michigan so well, as student ambassadors for career and technical education!

Student Spotlight

Tuscola Technology Center Student Takes First in the Nation!

Congratulations to Tim Mills, a Cass City High School senior, who took first place in the A+ Operating Systems National TestOut Challenge Competition! Held by the TestOut Corporation, the National TestOut Challenge was designed to encourage high school and applied technology students to pursue technology careers and industry certifications. During the competition in May 2005, nearly 5,000 tests were delivered to student and instructor participants. The TestOut Challenge provides students with a formal venue to compete and demonstrate their computer networking skills. Tim was awarded a Dell notebook computer as his first place prize.



Tim was one of ten students who competed in the National TestOut Challenge while attending the Computer Technology Management Program at Tuscola Technology Center. Tim has earned several industry certifications during the two years he attended the Tech Center including: A+ Hardware, A+ Operating Systems, MOS PowerPoint, and MOS Excel Expert.

Two other students placed at the state level in the A+ Hardware competition. Justin Vance, a Caro High School junior, placed second. Paul Clements, a Caro High School senior placed third. Justin and Paul have both earned their A+ Hardware certification and are completing their A+ Operating Systems certification in June 2005.

This was the first year the Tuscola Technology Center competed in the TestOut Challenge at the national level. The Computer Technology Management Program, taught by instructor Amy Schuette, was also chosen as a Governor's *Excellence In Practice Award* winner at Michigan's 2005 Governor's Conference on Career Education. With a teacher and students like these, it's certainly understandable why they were chosen!

Congratulations to Tim and to everyone associated with the program!

Girls Learn Technology and Skills for Careers in Emerging Sectors

Young women from Oakland County participated in a special summer camp the week of June 27, 2005 to learn of opportunities in and practice skills for what may be their chosen careers. Oakland Schools and Lawrence Technological University (LTU) partnered to provide this unique chance to middle and high school girls, learning on campus with LTU faculty.

During the *Young Women's Careers in Emerging Sectors* camp, girls were introduced to future careers in technology, leadership skills, CAD fundamentals, and web design. Students at the camp had a chance to learn from university faculty, women engineers, and LTU students.

"This camp has been designed in response to our data on future careers in emerging sectors, and the challenge to get more of our young women engaged in the high tech careers that will lead them to success," explained Dr. Pam Lowry, Director of Instructional Technology, LTU.

"We are delighted to partner with Lawrence Tech to provide this opportunity, and to give our young women a chance to learn these skills from professors who are respected in their field, and provide personal role models," said Dr. Marlana Krolicki, Oakland Schools Gender Equity Coordinator.

Gender equity activities through the year are designed to provide access and examples of non-traditional careers to both young women and young men. Learning activities, community learning, speakers, and mentors are conducted to engage students and assist in their career preparation and choices.

One annual highlight for Young Women in Engineering is the Female Robotics Tournament at LTU, featuring school-based teams of young women who design and build a robot to compete, supported by female engineers serving as coaches and judges.

Additional support for this camp was provided by funds from MetroDetroit America's Promise, addressing the promise for all students to learn marketable skills.

For more information on the Gender Equity program in Oakland County, or on the summer camp, *Young Women's Careers in Emerging Sectors*, please contact Dr. Marlana Krolicki, at (248) 209-2025.

Pinckney Robotics Team Takes SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference Honors

(Excerpted from *DAILY PRESS & ARGUS* By Christopher Nagy, July 11, 2005)

Two SkillsUSA **gold medalists** just might be bionic men, since both have the figurative robotic-leg-up on their competition. Pinckney Community High School students Craig Weiland and Andrew Renton won first place in the high school division of the **Robotics and Automation Technology** competition. The students faced off against roughly 30 other teams of high school and college students from around the country, and won!

During the challenge, teams are given identical sets of industrial equipment - such as a robot and robot controller, a power source, an input-output board and sensors - and then are given an identical task to perform with the equipment. The teams are responsible for putting the equipment together and programming everything to perform the assigned task, explained Sean Hickman, robotics teacher at Pinckney Community High School.

The task faced by Renton and Weiland included programming the robot to sort blocks according to metal and whether or not the blocks had holes in them, Weiland said. Students were judged on such things as the time it took to get the program running and efficiency of the program.

"These guys got done first, which is always a good sign," Hickman said of his students. "They had a cycle time of 14 minutes, which is a key scoring category. If a manufacturer is able to assemble a car in 28 minutes and someone comes along with a process that assembles a car in 14 minutes, that's a good thing."

The task was essentially a scaled-down version of a more elaborate 12-week project Hickman has his students do each year in school where students program robotic workcells to perform production tasks.

"Basically, everything we do here is computer-integrated manufacturing. They use the computer to design the workcells and then they use the tools to make it," Hickman said in May. "Probably the biggest thing they do here is develop problem-solving skills. I don't even know how to explain it. It's just such a big thing to be able to design something and then figure out how to make it work."

The robotics and automation class at Pinckney Community High School runs out of the Livingston Applied Technology Education Consortium of the Livingston Educational Service Agency, drawing students from all five of the county's school districts. Renton and Weiland are Pinckney students. Both are entering their junior year for the 2005-2006 school year.

James Darga, principal of Pinckney Community High School, said taking the national championship at SkillsUSA is just the latest feather in the school's cap. Over the past two years, the students in the high school's architecture program, automotive program and drama classes have received accolades and recognition in one form or another.

"Now it's robotics," Darga said. "It's pretty nice." So nice that the robotics program recently caught the attention of outside interests. After hearing about the robotics and automation classes in Pinckney, Adept Plastic Finishing of Wixom donated \$10,000 to the program. Hickman said the funds will be used to update some of the software used in his classes.

2005 Calendar of Upcoming CTSO Events

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BPA:	www.michiganbpa.org
October 3-4	Fall Leadership Conference Lansing, MI
DECA:	www.mideca.org
October 17-18	State Leadership Conference Lansing, MI
November 3-4	Michigan Marketing Educators Fall Conference; Lansing, MI
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	New York City Marketing Conf. New York, New York
FCCLA:	www.mifccla.org
October 24	Fall Leadership Workshop; EMU
October 25	Fall Leadership Workshop; CMU
October 26	Fall Leadership Workshop, LSSU
FFA:	www.michiganffa.com
October 26-29	National Leadership Convention Louisville, KY
HOSA:	www.michiganhosa.org
October 4	Fall Up Leadership Conference Bay College, Escanaba
October 19	Local Officer Conference Genesee Area Skills Center; Flint
SkillsUSA:	www.miskillsusa.org
November 18	Fall Leadership Conference Southfield, MI

Michigan BPA Students Excel at National Leadership Conference

Business Professionals of America (BPA) held its 39th Annual National Leadership Conference – the largest in its history – in Anaheim, California on April 22-26 this year. Michigan was represented by 542 delegates: 409 students, 91 advisors, and 42 guests.



Student winners from the Northern Michigan University BPA Chapter at the 2005 National Leadership Conference

The Michigan Association had 135 conference medal winners, the largest of any other state association! In addition, many students from Michigan received their Ambassador Award, which is the highest level of achievement in the Torch Awards Program, recognizing student excellence in community service efforts. Several chapters were also recognized for participation in the Special Recognition Award Program. The Southfield High School chapter from Michigan was recognized for the top Community Action award as well, one of the highest achievements in the program.

Several students from Michigan participated as conference interns and attended the NLC leadership academy. During the conference, more than 20 leadership development workshops were held, but there was also a little time for some fun activities. The students had a wonderful experience on a special night at the conference, which was reserved for all BPA attendees to visit Disneyland for fun and excitement. Some students also toured Hollywood, Universal Studios, Sea World, and other hot spots.

The Michigan Association is understandably proud of all its members and national assessment event winners!

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We Want To Hear From You --

If you can top this! – (the editor)

Nominee for **Most Creative** State CTSO Officer
Association Team Name:

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA):
“The Bloodwiser Team”



The 2005/2006 Michigan HOSA State Executive Council

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It is the responsibility of the State Officer Team to guide and represent Michigan HOSA at all HOSA conferences and events. At the 2005 National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, Michigan HOSA was well represented with over 230 participants. Click on the NLC 2005 Michigan Finalists link at www.michiganhosa.org for a list of the winners and finalists from Michigan!

State CTSO Director Corner

Newsletter Publishing Schedule:

Articles Due:

August 1
November 1
February 1
May 1

Publish Date:

September
December
March
June

Student organization directors **only**, please submit articles using the Newsletter Response Form. E-mail articles to Donna Beltz, Editor, at beltzd@michigan.gov.

